

## **IMDTT MAN OUTREACH TO OUR PRISON INMATE POPULATION FOR 2020 WITH NALIS.**

This is to update our members and supporters on the progress of our first attempt to engage the prison inmates of Trinidad and Tobago in the year 2020. **Our first session**, was with the youths of the Youth Training Centre, YTC, in Arouca, Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, 2020, meeting 16 young males and 4 young females, in their beautiful YTC library, in the presence of two Librarians, three female Prison Officers and four male Prison Officers, which went very well, in my humble opinion. From 9am to 11am, introducing the purpose of this Outreach, to motivate and the experience and training to carry it on and collecting very necessary information, in order to follow up and deliver the support, needed and wanted by these enterprising, although captive, young persons, housed there for safety and further development, until they are scheduled for reentry into society, hopefully much better prepared to live.

**Our second Session**, was with 50 adult males at the Maximum Security Prison, MSP, Waterloo Road Extension, Arouca, 30<sup>th</sup> Jan., also from 9am to 11am, this time in another beautiful building designed as a Chapel, but can accommodate many other people centered activities, in the presence of 2 Senior NALIS Librarians and 6 male Prison Officers. Another very engaging experience, as 11 of the inmates had an opportunity to talk from the podium, but time ran out on our session and many more wanted to share their needs and wants, including the tremendous value they are receiving from the Prison Programmes and the NALIS exposure to many books. Some almost half way through the reading material available. A phrase coined by them “DO NOT MAKE JAIL, LET JAIL MAKE YOU, must be noted as genius.

**In addition**, a need to have someone come and give guidance on the practice and procedure of having their written and spoken work published, along with the need to be exposed to simple legal practice and procedure for safe living, with some attention being paid for job employment on release back into society. Of course, Dr. Lennox Grant, our prolific writer, with his privately owned Publishing House, was recorded as a person to try to be made available and our Attorneys as members and friends, will be contacted, as per their availability and willingness, to so do, either “probono” or with funds received on application, for said engagement. *The job when released concern, was addressed by having the Custom Designed Questionnaire, housed in the MSP library, so that every inmate in this outreach, can provide the necessary information, for the necessary follow up work, to the satisfaction of those going to hit the ground running, when their time comes and they reenter society, better equipped to live peacefully.*

**IMDTT first effort here, is to sign a One Year Contract with NALIS, on the permission of the Prison Service**, at no cost to NALIS and inmates, to make 2020, a start for greater involvement, with our Prison Service. We are so lucky, that so many are still alive, improving themselves daily and willing to go the extra mile, for themselves and their loved ones. As such, we will interface with those identified by them on the outside, who are willing to connect or reconnect, as maturity enters the relationship status. *The data by the Crime and Problem Analysis (CAPA), Division of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TPPS), for 2019 is too unhappy for mention, but must be noted here for emphasis. 524 Murders, 460 males and 64 females. Of the females dying, 20% were because of intimate partner violence (IPV), 25% were because of gang related concerns, 5% were as a result of robberies and 2% were due to altercations. The disaggregation with the men was not made available to our organisation.*

**If those with eyes to see and ears to hear are not saddened, OUR MEN OF IMDTT ARE.** So beg, borrow AND NOT THIEF, but apply to wherever/whoever and for funds available to do the necessary work, it will be so done. **2020 is the start and a 3 year Contract is on the back burner, for front fire to follow.** We have the human resource, the commitment and willingness, as the 2019 Week with NALIS exposed, although it was 3 Directors, spending their Personal Allowance Funds, which do not fall under the purview of the Inland Revenue Department, for tax purposes, as this \$6,000.00, allowed monthly, **Is Part Of Our Personal Allowance Sum, \$72,000.00, Allowed Annually, Totally Free From any Taxing.**

We have now seen, close hand, the wonderful and secure caring opportunity the Prison Service is offering those under their watch and the fantastic educational opportunity the Prison NALIS Sector has available to the inmates, to gain further training and continue with the positive change behaviour path they are on.

*I was tremendously impressed with the quantity and quality of effort exemplified by all those I had the pleasure to be in contact with for 4 hours, in 2 exemplary days and saw an incredible opportunity for our men in IMDTT and in Trinidad and Tobago on the outside of those prison walls, to contribute with their knowledge and experience firstly, as a human resource and secondly, with whatever financial and material resources we can add to the supply from the Prison Service and NALIS, a God given blessing, in my humble opinion and a must do, for Sustainable Development in beloved Trinidad and Tobago.*

The eagerness by all there, to learn is hindered to some extent by what the library can afford to provide as reading material and other library services. The Prison Training Programmes in-house, are cultivating and nurturing a number of inmate artists, to continue their past and new involvement in the arts of interest. **IMDTT have men who will be able to visit and share their knowledge in the number of topics the youths and adults need and want further guidance on, Publishing their work done in literature, knowledge of basic law for survival, guidance on sporting interests, to name just three.**

AN EXAMPLE IN POINT, having had the opportunity to read recently a small but useful text book on our **present growing problem of bullying in schools**, titled “**The Cries of Victims & Bullies**”, written by Mrs. Sally Ragoo, MBA, BA (Hons.), I recommended the book to the Prison NALIS and they agreed to have it in the Libraries for the inmates. Approaching the author to discuss the cost for use by the inmates, I was so pleasantly surprised when she offered to donate ten copies, 5 each for the Youth Training Centre, YTC and the Maximum Security Prison MSP.

**Knowing that that example of sharing is not always available**, IMDTT will ensure that supplies of that nature will be budgeted for as priority. This book, based on the author’s personal experience as a young student and the related personal experience of one of her sons, she put all of her talent, knowledge and expertise to produce, at her own expense, “**The Cries of Victims & Bullies**”, emphasizing that pain and suffering, is not only felt by the victims, but experienced by the bullies, who act it out, on those they can do so to, in their attempts, to manage their personal history, unless personal intervention is done, with the required level of success. **The data from those first 2 Sessions will be analyzed for further developmental purposes and will be kept with the necessary level of privacy required. IMDTT will engage with the loved ones on the outside, who have been identified by the inmates to be so engaged and they are willing to connect or reconnect with loved ones.**

IMDTT will seek funding after a complete needs assessment has been done and purchase learning materials, plant and other material resources in urgent need and which at times now are provided by other kind persons. Rest assured that the \$500.00 dollars which was saved, by not having to purchase those first outreach books supply, to the NALIS Prison Libraries, will be recorded as contributions to the yearlong Programme, when we apply for funding to complete the Prison MAN OUTREACH 2020.

Our Chartered Accountant/Treasurer, Norris Blackman, is going to manage all the financial records for IMDTT’s annual responsibility, to the Board of Inland Revenue. **Our men and all those hearing of our intention, to reach our inmate population, can become prepared to join our outreach and whatever other attempts are ongoing to improve our standard of living in beautiful Trinidad and Tobago.**

As the Secretary of IMDTT, my email is [donaldberment@gmail.com](mailto:donaldberment@gmail.com), cell/watts app 383-6184 and home phone 637-0924. The present Cloud Archive for IMDTT is <https://www.archive.org/details/@mavawsec>.